

a discriminating unit adapted to denominate bills of a plurality of U.S. denominations, and to retrieve characteristic information from one or more bills;

a memory for storing master characteristic information associated with each genuine U.S. bill which the system is capable of identifying; said memory storing master characteristic information associated with at least one genuine bill from each of at least two currency systems; and

said discriminating unit including a signal processing means for comparing said retrieved characteristic information with master characteristic information associated with at least one genuine bill, said signal processing means generating an indication of the denomination of said bill based on said comparison when said retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches said master characteristic information, wherein said system is relatively compact.

#### REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter this Amendment After Allowance Under 37 C.F.R. §1.312. Applicants are proposing to amend claim 69 by the Present Amendment After Allowance Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 proposed to .

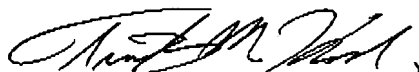
Applicants are proposing to amend the preamble of claim 69 to improve the readability of claim 69. Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed amendment to the preamble of claim 69 will not affect the scope of claim 69. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit the proposed amendment will not narrow claim 69 within the meaning of Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 234 F.3d 558, 56 U.S.P.Q.2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2000), because the preamble of claim 69 (as presently allowed or as amended) merely recites the purpose of the structured recited in the body of the claim and the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness. In re Hirao, 535 F.2d 67, 70, 190 U.S.P.Q. 15 (CCAP 1976). *See also*, M.P.E.P. § 211.02. If the Examiner disagrees and believes that the scope of claim 69 has been affected by

the present amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to notify Applicants as such in the next official paper.

It is believed that no fees are presently due. However, should any fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Jenkins & Gilchrist, P.C. Deposit Account No. 10-0447(47171-00139USC1).

Respectfully submitted,

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